

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 9 and 11 are now pending in the application. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the recitations of claims 2, 4, and 5, which claims have correspondingly been cancelled. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended to depend from amended claim 1, in light of the amendment. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Response to claim objections in section 1

The examiner has object to claims 3 and 5-7 for using numbering to delineate claim elements. Applicant respectfully submits that this is a common practice used for readability and reference purposes, and would be clear to the person of ordinary skill in the art reading the claims. Further, applicant respectfully submits these claims are in a single sentence form, as required. Nevertheless, applicant has amended the numbering. The objection is traversed.

Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The examiner has acknowledged that each of claims 5, 6, and 7 recite allowable subject matter. These claims are only objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the subject matter of provisionally-allowed claim 5, including the subject matter of base claims 2 and 4. As a result, amended claim 1 is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 3, 6, and 7 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and therefore are also in condition for immediate allowance.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed; and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 11 are already confirmed as allowable.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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